

Injured With Wallace

Dora Thompson To Testify

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (AP) — Mrs. Dora Thompson is sitting out this presidential campaign, immobilized by the same volley of gunfire which eliminated her candidate—Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama.

The 34-year-old housewife and campaign worker was one of four persons wounded May 15 when Wallace's quest for the Democratic nomination ended at a Laurel, Md., shopping center.

Unlike Wallace and the two law enforcement men guarding the candidate, Mrs. Thompson was the only "average citizen" cut down by the .38-caliber slugs.

She was involved in her first political venture as a Wallace volunteer and worked out of the governor's campaign office in Prince Georges County.

She says her few weeks with grass-roots democracy ended with the bullet shattering a bone in her lower right leg, forcing her to wear a series of casts that have prevented her from walking.

"My doctor says it's healing real good," she said. She said the physician told her she must wear a cast a minimum of five months before she will be able to start walking normally again.

Mrs. Thompson said she has been summoned as a witness against Arthur Herman Bremer, who goes on trial in Upper Marlboro, Md., Monday on charges of shooting her, Wallace, Secret Service agent Nicholas Zarvos and Capt. E. C. Dothard of the Alabama state police.

Mrs. Thompson, whose husband manages a supermarket, is not bitter about her experience, and she is ready to work again for Wallace.

"I would still support Governor Wallace if he's able to run," she stated.

"I'm just sorry all this had to happen," she continued. "I think it's terrible someone can try to take a person's life just because he's speaking what he believes."

She recalls the scene at the

"She said, 'It sounded like firecrackers going off.'

"I said, 'If that's someone's idea of a joke, it isn't very funny.'

"People then began moving all around me. I took three or four steps, and my right leg gave out. I reached down and grabbed hold of it. I didn't realize I'd been hit. I went over and sat down on a curb."

She spent nine days at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring. Just before she left, she was wheeled into the room of Gov. Wallace, also a patient.

"Governor Wallace and I talked for a while," she said.

"He was very sympathetic and upset. I think he was more worried about me than himself."

Mrs. Thompson was born in Alabama but came to Maryland when she was 17 and "hadn't really heard" of Wallace at the time.

Billy Thompson, her 9-year-old son, is busy this summer helping his invalid mother, who says she wishes she was up and about.

"I think the inactivity is the worst part," she stated. "I was never able to sit still before."

Mrs. Thompson has filed a claim with the Maryland Criminal Injuries Compensation

Board under the state law permitting payments to innocent persons injured by criminal acts.

She said that she expects any award to be small because private insurance will take care of most of her hospital and doctor bills.

Joseph Pickus, chairman of the commission, said it would take about 60 days to process the claim and that the amount she receives would be determined later according to damages and need.

The University of Wisconsin has 13 campuses.

snopping center one day before the Maryland primary won by Wallace.

"It was horrible. It's still horrible.

"My leg went numb. I didn't realize it had been hit ... I heard the shots and said to someone next to me: 'What was that?'"